

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00367 152155Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2019
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AF TU PK

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO KABUL

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 15. MFA DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS, FARUK CELILOGLU, SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN LIES PRIMARILY IN THE REINFORCING EFFECT IT HAS ON THE ALREADY EXTREMELY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND AFGHANISTAN. CELILOGLU SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT HAD BEGUN TOO LATE FOR COMPLETION DURING THE VISIT, BUT IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THEY WOULD BE COMPLETED DURING A VISIT OF TECHNICIANS TO TURKEY IN MARCH.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AFGHAN-PAKISTANI RELATIONS, CELILIGLU SAID CAGLAYANGIL HAD NOT TRIED TOMEDIATE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THESE TWO FRIENDS OF TURKEY. HE SAID TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS IN TRYING TO MEDIATE
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00367 152155Z

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ HAD CONVINCED THE

GOT THAT IT SHOULD NOT TAKE ON THE ROLE OF AN INTER-MEDIARY IN THIS SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, CAGLAYANGIL DID CONVEY TO THE AFGHANS THE PAKISTANIS' VIEW CONCERNING THE DISPUTE, AND URGED A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE. CELILIGLU SAID THAT IT WAS THE IMPRESSION OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION THAT THE AFGHANS WERE, AS A RESULT OF CAGLAYANGIL'S APPROACH, PERHAPS CLOSER TO BEING PREPARED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PAKISTANIS THAN THEY HAD BEEN. CELILOGLU SAID, HOWEVER, THAT NO CONCRETE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

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